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Jerusalem, Oct. 8, 1951.

Another academic year has started at the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem with the customary lack of formality, and the time has come to report on activities here during recent weeks. Although other students are expected next month, those who have arrived attended the first of the class sessions on October 1, thereby inaugurating another season of work at the School.

The three Reeds, including Russell, aged 13 months, sailed from the New York harbor on August 3 on the S.S. Exeter after the usual hectic days of packing; securing visas, and making last minute purchases of supplies for the School. During July President Carl Kraeling and Prof. Henry Detweiler, Chairman of the Jerusalem School Committee, had spent two full days with me in Chicago, and had been most helpful in describing the conditions we might expect in Jerusalem and in discussing a possible program for the School. Later in New Haven at the office of the Schools, Mrs. Walton was most kind and made it possible for me to catch up on correspondence which had accumulated since our departure from Texas Christian University. She assisted with our School transactions at a local bank, and also arranged brief visits for me with my friends and former teachers, Professors Millar Burrows, Julian Obermann and Ferris Stephens.

The journey to Lebanon was most restful, and while travel by air is often necessary these days, we found travel by sea a welcome interlude between the struggle involved in leaving home and the struggle that accompanies the effort to settle, even temporarily, in another land. The trip provided us with opportunities for brief visits at museums and other places of interest in Marseilles, Naples and Alexandria.

On our arrival in Beirut we were first met by the very capable representative of the American Levant Shipping Company whose services had been recommended to us by President Kraeling. No two gentlemen could have looked better to us than Dr. A.D. Tushingham, Acting Director of the Jerusalem School, and Imran Abdo, School driver, who were waiting at the dock. During two days in Beirut we arranged for the shipment to Jerusalem of two large boxes which we had brought for the School and which were too bulky for the Pontiac station-wagon. We stayed at a small but pleasant hotel near the outskirts of Beirut where we escaped the heat of the city and also had the pleasure of meeting D.C. Baramki and his family who were living temporarily at the hotel. There was time also for drives south to Sidon and north through Nahr el-Kelb along the coast to Jebeil, ancient Byblos. Business and pleasure completed in Beirut we drove by way of Baalbek to Damascus where we spent the night and then on through Amman to Jerusalem. The heat of the Jordan Valley was terrific but it made us appreciate all the more the sight of the Russian and the Augusta Victoria towers on the Mount of Olives and the refreshing coolness of the evening in Jerusalem.

The School building looked very much as we had remembered it from our student days during 1937-38 except that the trees are much taller. We were given a warm welcome by Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jones of the Friends School in Ramallah who had been staying for a few days at the School, and by the servants, Omar, Helen, Melia and

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Mahmud. The first few days in Jerusalem were spent in becoming acquainted with School procedures and with various officials whose offices we shall be visiting in the course of operating the School during the year. Dr. Tushingham was most gracious and patient as he introduced us to the book-keeping system and files for which Mrs. Reed and I will share responsibility. We were sorry to have arrived too late to meet Mrs. Tushingham before her departure for the United States, but we greatly appreciated the provisions she had made for our arrival. A vote of thanks is due the Tushinghams for the very efficient way they have managed the affairs of the School and Hostel during the summer. We are delighted also that Dr. Tushingham is remaining at the School as the Annual Professor this year, and we are looking forward with pleasure to the return of Mrs. Tushingham later in the year.

When it became necessary to visit the American Minister in Amman on business for the School, we were able to make a trip to Dhiban where the School excavated last year and also to visit Tell es-Sultan near Jericho where it is hoped we may be engaged in a joint excavation beginning in January. Dr. Tushingham, who had participated in the work last spring with Dr. Winnett and the School group, guided us over the tell at Dhiban, pointing out the achievements and problems that can be seen more clearly on the site than in the plans which we had studied. Although a surprisingly large area had been cleared in the brief seasons at Dhiban last year, there is much to be done, and it is to be hoped that the work may be continued. Tell es-Sultan, Old Testament Jericho, is confusion compounded, even more so than I had remembered from my earlier visits. The pits left by former excavations are numerous, having recently been occupied by animals; above them hangs an odor which caused one of our party to observe that fumigation of the site should precede excavation. Confusion and odor notwithstanding, the prospect of a season of excavating at such a famous place is thrilling indeed.

August 31 was the last day of the current season of the Dominicans' work at Tell el-Farah, north of Nablus, and we were fortunate enough to arrive in time for a tour of the excavations with Pere de Vaux of the École Biblique. It was pay day, and there was the usual activity that precedes the closing of the season, so we could not impose on Pere de Vaux for a detailed description of the results of the dig, but when he returns from France next month we hope to hear further of his work, and to accept his offer of counsel as we prepare for the field work of the American School. We were glad to have with us on this and other trips Mr. Frank Stone of Oberlin who spent a month at the School prior to his return to Ohio in time for the opening sessions at the School of Theology there.

The first of the Fellows to arrive was Dr. E.W. Hamrick who came directly from Beirut through Syria by taxi in one day, which is no small accomplishment, at least during the heat of September. He arrived on September 4 and became at once a welcome member of the School family. Dr. Hamrick did his college work at the University of North Carolina and at Duke University, where he received the Ph. D. degree in Biblical studies in June of this year. The word he brought from and concerning the Stinesprings, Clarks, Brownlees and others was a welcome bond between former years and the new one at the Jerusalem School.

Dr. Victor Gold is the other Fellow this year; he arrived with Mrs. Gold on September 20 at the Kallandia airport where we met them with the school car. The Golds are from Alice, Texas; Dr. Gold is a pastor of the Lutheran Church. Educated at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, he received the Ph. D. degree in Semitics at the Johns Hopkins University in June of this year. It is good to have a student of Dr. Albright's in our midst, and Mrs. Gold, who is living and working as assistant matron at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, is a welcome visitor at the School on week-ends.

Two days after the arrival of the Golds, James B. Storey, Mrs. Storey and two

children, Ann and John, were met at the airport and transported to the American Colony where they are living. Mr. Storey is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and has been for several years Professor of Bible at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Mr. Storey is enrolled in the School and will continue his work with us during the year.

It was good fortune for the School that Dr. Tushingham was able to attend the International Congress of Orientalists in Istanbul, September 15-22, and not only to bring back reports concerning the various delegates in attendance and some of the papers that were read, but also to enlighten our group with interesting descriptions of the several sites visited on the tour conducted through Turkey for the members of the Congress after the meetings in Istanbul adjourned.

A word may be in order concerning the academic program as projected for the School this year. The customary practice is being followed of scheduling class work only on those subjects which can better be studied here than elsewhere, taking account of the varied interests and backgrounds of the students, and encouraging individual research. Special attention is being devoted to the practical phases of excavating, with an emphasis upon the study of pottery, flints, coins, etc., as well as a consideration of methodology for field work. Study has also begun on the topography and archaeological records of those regions and sites in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to which trips are planned during the year. It is hoped that such a program will enable each student to achieve a better knowledge of the topography and archaeology of these regions, and that it will result in the training of a staff which may be able to do an acceptable, scientific piece of work in the excavations that will be undertaken later. I must add that no classes in languages are being held, but everyone at the School just now is busy with a tutor learning colloquial Arabic.

In the phases of our work dealing with pottery and related subjects, I personally miss very much the counsel that was available to me in former days from such men as Dr. Nelson Glueck, Dr. Clarence Fisher, Sir Flinders Petrie and Père Vincent. The latter still resides at the École Biblique, and I spent a most interesting hour with him last month, but because of his age one does not impose upon his good nature too much. In these days probably the greatest handicap under which a Director of the American School of Oriental Research works is the absence of the old regime which included men whose competence in field archaeology had been proved at many excavations and had been developed during many years of residence in this land. But there are some compensations for all who are working now at the Jerusalem School. The program of the Department of Antiquities continues in a constructive way, and almost personal attention is given to every problem by Mr. G.W. Lankester Harding, Chief Curator, who has been most helpful. The cordiality of Mr. Joseph Sa'ad at the Palestine Museum is likewise no small factor in aiding the individual who is seeking first-hand acquaintance with materials from former excavations. Student galleries, as well as the library and the general galleries are open to serious students of archaeology.

Official school trips cannot be scheduled very far in advance, but our travels have started. After a study of some of the maps, hand-books and archaeological reports available, the School group spent October 6 on the first official trip of the year by heading south toward Hebron. Brief stops were made at the traditional tomb of Rachel and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to permit those of the party who had not already done so to catch a first glimpse of these historic places. Then we drove directly to Hebron passing the so-called Pools of Solomon. In Hebron, with written permission secured in Jerusalem, we were able to visit the famous Haram el-Khalil built at the traditional cave of Machpelah and to view the cenotaphs of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives. Later, accompanied by a pleasant young policeman from Hebron, we proceeded south on the road toward Beersheba turning west to reach Tell Beit Mirsim. The men of the village gave us a cordial welcome, inviting us into an improvised shelter made of branches and leaves where we sipped





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excellent tea, rested on mats and cushions provided by our hosts who described visits by members of the School. At the tell itself nearby, the group spent some time climbing over the ruins and dump piles, picking up fragments of pottery and attempting to identify various walls which are still visible.

Returning to Hebron we said farewell to our policeman and drove to the Russian hospice near by for a view of the ancient oaks which have been identified by some as Abraham's oaks of Mamre. On the return journey to Jerusalem we had time only for a brief visit at Khirbet Ramet el Khalil where the lower courses of a colossal building containing stones from Biblical times are to be seen. After some difficulty we also made our way to Khirbet et-Tubeiqah, the Beth-Zur of the Old Testament, and using Professor O.R. Sellers' report of the excavation conducted in 1931 by the American School of Oriental Research and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, we looked for evidence of ancient remains. We were able to locate and enter the reservoir, but otherwise there was little to see except a very excellent crop of tomatoes.

Finally, a few random comments about life in Jerusalem as it affects the program of the School! On October we had the sad news from Mrs. Vester that Mr. John Whiting had died during the night. He will be remembered by many visitors to Jerusalem because of his long association with the American Colony. He had been in ill health for some time, although he had been seeing visitors occasionally a few days before his death. The funeral was held in St. George's Cathedral and the burial in the Friends Cemetery in Ramallah.

There is considerable excitement in the air at the School just now as preparations are being made for two events. The first occurs, inshallah, on October 11 when a tea is being given by the students and faculty for friends and dignitaries of Jerusalem. The second event is the beginning of an official school trip on Oct. 13 planned for the School by Professor Tushingham; we hope to see a number of places of archaeological interest in Syria and Lebanon.

Dr. Aage Schmidt, excavator at Shiloh and an associate at other excavations in Palestine, is an occasional visitor; at the mention of Shiloh a bright light comes into his eyes and he begins to talk excitedly about his experiences. As in other recent years, Kahan Amran Ishak, High Priest of the Samaritans in Nablus, manages to arrive at the School at lunch-time; he is known as a man who is full of dignity and as one who puts the dignity of others to the test.

Several rooms in the Hostel are not occupied at the moment, so I can report the availability of accommodations for students and teachers from America who are associated with the American Schools. It is always appreciated when such guests who expect to come to Jerusalem can notify this office in advance.

Everyone in the School this year has commented on the evidence of good-will toward the School shown by the people of Jerusalem and others with whom we come in contact. We are conscious of the heritage which is ours by reason of an association with the School, and we hope that the work this year may contribute something of importance to the progress of archaeology.

William L. Reed, Director.